

system because of the strong anti-gun control lobby and pro-gun congress members. Also noted in the enforcement section are success stories, which show that tough enforcement programs such as Project Exile and The Boston Summer of Opportunity can work to effectively reduce the crime rate nationwide just as they did in their respective cities. We discuss current laws pertaining to guns, some bills that are currently in congress and funding methods. We stress, more than anything else, that tough enforcement of laws, public awareness of the consequences of gun related crimes and proper funding for these programs is essential in reducing the number of gun related deaths in this nation.

We hope that we will spark an interest in some of you to act on this proposal and we hope that we will provide you, Congresswoman Eshoo, with solid information to use in Congress to affect change on behalf of your student (and soon to be your voting) constituents. If we want to reduce gun-related crime, we need action. California Senator Feinstein has taken a step in the right direction. She introduced a bill requiring the licensing of most gun buyers. It would cover buyers of handguns and some semiautomatic weapons and would mandate that records for sales of each be kept. We feel that strong preventative action needs to be enacted along with strict enforcement of laws pertaining to gun control in order to finally reduce gun crime in the United States.

#### CONCLUSION

Gun related crime take the lives of 32,500 people every year. That is about ninety people per day and 3,000 of those people are under nineteen years old. The United States' position on gun control presently is to let states make most of the laws governing prevention and enforcement methods. The problems created by not having a national system of gun control account for many of the deaths in this nation. We propose a federally run and funded program that includes prevention methods as well as strict enforcement regulations. This is the only way to keep guns out of unacceptable hands.

National prevention efforts should include universal gun safety lock laws and funding for more research on "Smart Gun" technology. A D.A.R.E. style program focused on guns will be the key to educating children about guns so they can make good decisions later in life. Prevention is essential to reducing gun-related crimes and suicides.

Effective enforcement is the other aspect in the fight to reduce gun-related deaths in the United States. Without harsh punishments for criminals who use guns any prevention efforts will not be effective. Project Exile, a successful enforcement project in Richmond, Virginia, is a perfect example of a program that we feel should be utilized in high crime areas throughout the nation. Proper funding and identification of worthwhile programs is equally important. We have identified bills that are currently in the House of Representatives to encourage your support, Congresswoman Eshoo, for the types of bills presented. Lastly, we have shown successful programs such as the "Summer of Opportunity" in Boston, Massachusetts and important, landmark legislation such as the Brady Bill that are steps in the right direction.

The Congresswoman Eshoo Student Advisory Board feels that aggressive, nationwide change needs to take place to effectively reduce gun crime in the United States. We would like to mention positive efforts to educate and reduce gun crimes. The Million-Mom March taking place this Sunday, May 15 (Mothers Day) embodies many of the as-

pects of gun control that we support. Senator Feinstein's recent announcement of her bill to make gunlocks mandatory is also a step in the right direction. We hope that this report will provide the information necessary to enact change on the Hill. We hope that Congress and President Clinton can come to agreement on a truly successful program to reduce gun crime, especially in the wake of tragedies such as Columbine and the Michigan shooting of a six-year-old child. There is no better time to enact landmark legislation that embodies both the prevention and enforcement side of this problem.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, although I was on the House floor throughout the proceedings for consideration of H.R. 8, the repeal of the federal estate tax, on Friday, June 9, 2000, I was not recorded as voting on that issue.

My vote was recorded to defeat LLOYD DOGGETT's Motion to Recommit H.R. 8, but my vote on final passage of H.R. 8 was not recorded.

I was a cosponsor of that legislation and it has been a part of my platform since my election to Congress in 1994. I am disappointed that my vote was not recorded because I have always and continue to be in favor of repeal of the federal estate tax.

#### CLOSE THE 527 LOOPHOLE AND END THE DEATH TAX!

##### HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 9, 2000, with my support, the House passed the legislation (H.R. 8) to eliminate the Death Tax.

For too long, exorbitant tax rates have made it difficult for Americans to pass their savings onto their children, and for small businessmen and farmers to keep their enterprises within the family.

That's why I cosponsored and voted in favor of the Death Tax Elimination Act (H.R. 8), which would phase out the estate and gift tax over a period of 10 years.

It is my hope that phasing out the death tax will make it easier for individuals and families to accumulate savings for future generations.

In addition, during debate on this important legislation, a motion was offered to address another important issue—campaign finance reform. I supported this motion.

Congress' failure over the years to address the issue of campaign finance reform hurts all of us. It undermines public confidence in this institution and cast a cloud over every action we take in this House.

I have been actively fighting for campaign finance reform in this House for a number of years—from authoring my own Independent Commission Bill to supporting a ban on soft money through Shays-Meehan to supporting today's motion to close the 527 loophole.

Recently, there has been an increase in anonymous campaign expenditures by third parties. Many of these organizations are classified by Section 527 of the tax code. These "527" organizations are currently free to participate in our electoral process, but are not required to disclose to the American voters from where their funds originate.

To establish disclosure requirements for individuals and organizations who wish to take an active role in affecting the outcome of federal elections is just plain common sense. Individuals and organizations who strongly believe in an issue or a candidate and are willing to back them up with the financial resources should not be allowed to hide behind a loophole.

Congress must act on legislation requiring disclosure for any group who wishes to participate of our federal electoral process.

#### BATTLE OF THE BULGE

##### HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, not long ago I was privileged to take part in a ceremony in Orlando, Florida to commemorate the Battle of the Bulge and those who fought in that historic battle. The ceremony was conducted to dedicate an impressive new memorial erected to honor the 600,000 Americans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

The keynote speaker at the dedication was Brigadier General William E. Carlson (USA/Ret.), a distinguished and exceptional gentleman who resides in Winter Park, Florida. At the age of 12, General Carlson was a Congressional Page serving in the House of Representatives on that historic day when President Roosevelt asked a joint session of Congress for a declaration of war.

To commemorate the Battle of the Bulge Monument, General Carlson gave a moving and graphic description of the battle and the historic events which preceded it. His speech should be read by others so that this story will never be forgotten. In Washington we are working to build a long overdue monument to World War II and honor the heroes who fought in it. In Orlando, we are proud to honor our World War II soldiers with our monument to the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit General Carlson's Battle of the Bulge speech for inclusion in the RECORD:

It was the 16th of September, 1944. Adolf Hitler had summoned a group of his senior officers to his study in the huge, underground bunker in the Wolf's Lair, Hitler's field headquarters, located deep in a pine forest in East Prussia.

Those summoned were his closest and most trusted military advisors. Among them was only one who wore the red stripes of the German General Staff. He was the head of the Operations Staff of the High Command of the Wehrmacht, General Alfred Jodl.

The officers were waiting when Hitler entered. Taking a seat, Hitler instructed Jodl to sum up the situation on the Western Front.

During the briefing, Jodl noted that there was one area of particular concern where the Americans were attacking and where the Germans had almost no troops: That area was the region of Belgium and Luxembourg called the Ardennes.